



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

To promote a safer Idaho by reducing recidivism

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

BRENT D. REINKE
Director

Idaho Justice Reinvestment Initiative (IJRI) **Frequently Asked Questions for Supervision**

What is the Idaho Justice Reinvestment Initiative?

A new law makes big changes to Idaho's criminal justice system. Most of the changes made by Senate Bill 1357 went into effect July 1, 2014, but some parts of the law will be phased in over the next few years.

What does IJRI do?

There are three main goals:

- Strengthen supervision to help probationers and parolees succeed.
- Use prison beds for the highest risk offenders.
- Develop a system that tracks the effectiveness of the system and programs.

How are you 'strengthening supervision'?

Officers will receive more training, and have standardized tools to more effectively supervise offenders. The law requires a matrix for sanctions and incentives. The matrix approach will create consistency in the way positive behavior is rewarded and negative behavior is sanctioned. Another goal is to lower caseloads, which will allow officers to respond more quickly to the good and potentially dangerous behaviors.

Can probationers get off supervision early?

The law allows for IDOC, or any party, to request an early release at any time during the probation sentence. The **court** will rule on the request within 60 days, based on input from the prosecuting attorney.

Can parolees get off supervision early?

IDOC can submit a request for final parole discharge when the offender is eligible by statute and rule based on offense type. The **Parole Commission** must rule within 90 days. It is the Parole Commission's goal to have a request for discharge from the parole officer the month and year of first eligibility.

The Department will review four items prior to supporting a probation or parole release.

1. A criminal records check is completed.
2. Restitution is paid in full.
3. Special conditions have been complied with.
4. The supervised offender performed well while on probation or parole.

If a release isn't granted by the court or commission, the officer may consider moving the offender to the limited supervision unit.

What is the Limited Supervision Unit (LSU)?

For those needing less supervision, a limited supervision unit will offer a check-in option via the internet. Placement on the LSU is based on offender risk and threat to the community.

I understand the new law changes the rules for parole violators. What has changed?

The law limits the amount of time a parole violator spends in prison if there is no new conviction for a felony or violent misdemeanor.

First parole violation: Prison time is limited to 90 days.

Second parole violation: Prison time is limited to 180 days.

Third parole violation: Commission discretion is involved. It can result in anything from revocation or a parole, to a reinstatement on parole.

Treatment helped me in the past, but I didn't have it the last time I released. Will I have treatment options this time?

In March 2014, lawmakers appropriated \$2.5 million in additional funding for treatment in communities. This will allow more access for parolees needing treatment. In the future, the law requires agencies to report on treatment capacity, allowing lawmakers to assess if, and where, more funds are needed.

What about mental health needs?

The Department of Health and Welfare is required to develop a system that will provide mental health treatment when needed. *Idaho Code Section 19-2524*

SUMMARY

The Idaho Justice Reinvestment Initiative seeks to use Idaho's prison beds for the most violent offenders. It also adds structure and resources for community supervision and intervention.

Steering Committee members encourage those in prison and on supervision to take advantage of this opportunity by completing programs, internalizing treatment, and setting goals for a successful future.